

JAMES J. NAKATANI Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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QUARANTINE ORDER NO. 94

WEST NILE VIRUS

The Hawaii State Department of Agriculture under the authority granted by Section 142-6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and with the cooperation of the United States Postal Service, hereby places a quarantine-embargo on the importation of all birds and poultry, except hatching eggs and day-old chicks, through the United States Postal Service.

This embargo will prevent birds and poultry potentially exposed to the West Nile virus from entering Hawaii without meeting entry requirements specifically established to prevent introduction of the West Nile virus. The goal of this embargo is to protect the State's public health, economy, and environment.

West Nile virus can cause significant illness and fatal infections in various species of birds and clinical disease and deaths in horses and humans. The principal transmission vectors for the West Nile virus are bird-feeding mosquitoes. Mosquitoes are infected when feeding on birds that have sufficiently high levels of virus in their blood. Subsequently, infected mosquitoes can transmit the virus to other birds, humans, and horses. Two biologically competent mosquito vectors for the transmission of the West Nile virus are present in Hawaii.

Once introduced into Hawaii's mosquito or bird populations, there is a high probability that the West Nile virus will become endemic, causing significant public health, economic, and environmental damage. Based on the persistence and spread of the West Nile virus, it is now considered endemic in North America. Therefore, this quarantine-embargo is put in place to reduce the risk of the West Nile virus introduction into Hawaii.

This quarantine-embargo shall remain in place until rescinded.

Dated at Honolulu, Hawaii this 18th day of September 2002.

(for) JAMES M. FOPPOLI, Ph.D., D.V.M.

Administrator, Division of Animal Industry

APPROVED:

JAMÉS J. NAKATANI

Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

